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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1943.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Bingley Urban District Council.**

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of my Department for the year 1943. I should like to express my thanks to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the staff of the Health Department, and voluntary helpers at the Clinics for their assistance during the past year. I wish also to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support during the past year.

During 1943 my expectation of an increase in the number of births has materialised. We still have the same two problems of lack of sufficient maternity accommodation and the difficulty of domestic help in maternity cases. With regard to the first problem, the Council is anxious to remedy the difficulties, and if this were done the second problem would be much alleviated. Unfortunately, we are still without the permission of the Ministry of Health to proceed on any reasonable scheme.

In the earlier days of the war I could well understand the objections to diversion of materials and labour to such schemes. Recently it has become obvious that the same objections no longer apply. Candidly I am at a loss to understand the reasons for such restraints on such a vital service. With the publicity given to the projected "National Health Service" one would have expected every opportunity being seized by the Ministry to demonstrate its genuine interest in health, and convince the public that the Ministry itself was genuinely "health-minded." A study of the White Paper "A National Health Service" has completely failed to give any illumination. There is great detail as to the proposed administrative structure culminating in a projected service "controlled" by the Minister of Health, without the offer of any concrete proposals to augment in any way the facilities available. There is a consistent policy of gathering the powers of authorities to the centre.

In my view the prospects as to the birth rate are of still greater increases. I am pressing the question of maternity accommodation. I expect assistance. I, personally, shall not be satisfied with less than a Bingley Maternity Home.

I am, Gentlemen, Yours faithfully,

A. J. M. FINDLATER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	11,376
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943) according to Rate Books Est.	7,080
Rateable Value Est.	£123,046
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£550

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births.	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	277	139	138
Illegitimate	21	11	10
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident populat'n,	14.58		
Stillbirths	12	7	5
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	38.71		
Deaths	258	116	142
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident populat'n,	12.62		
Deaths from puerperal causes.			

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)
Puerperal Sepsis ... 0		0
Other puerperal causes 1		3.22
Total 1		3.22

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	37
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	39
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	37

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1943.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>No. of Deaths.</i>
Influenza	6
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	6
Other Tuberculous Disease	3
Diphtheria	1
Syphilis	2
Cancer, malignant disease	37
Diabetes	3
Intracranial vascular lesions	33
Heart Disease	89



Other circulatory diseases	3
Bronchitis	13
Pneumonia (all forms)	9
Other Respiratory Diseases	3
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	1
Peptic Ulcer	3
Appendicitis	1
Other digestive diseases	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	6
Congenital malformations, Birth Injuries, etc.	2
Premature Birth	4
Other Maternal Causes	1
Suicide	1
Other Violence	3
All other causes	26
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MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by the Health Visitors in their respective districts.

	Bingley and District	Wilsden and Harden	Culling- worth	Total
First visits to infants under 1 year old . . .	195	45	25	265
All visits to infants under 1 year old .. .	914	345	100	1359
Visits to children aged 1 to 5 years	1495	378	164	2037
Visits to expectant mothers	102	30	—	132

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens is undertaken by the West Riding County Council. In cases of great emergency, Diphtheria swabs are bacteriologically examined at the Bradford Royal Infirmary. Arrangements for transport and payment are made by this Authority. Chemical analysis of water is carried out by the County Analyst.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious Cases.

The same as in 1942.

Non-Infectious Cases.

The same as in 1942.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

The same as in 1942.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The same as in 1942.

(e) HOSPITALS.

General Hospital.

The same as in 1942.

Ear, Nose and Throat.

The same as in 1942.

Fever Hospital.

The same as in 1942.

Smallpox Hospital.

The same as in 1942.

Maternity Hospital.

The same as in 1942.

Children's Hospital.

The same as in 1942.

2. CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The number of foster children upon the Register at the end of the year was 4. Copies of the requirements under the Public Health Act, 1936, in relation to Child Life Protection are posted in public buildings.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

The number of midwives practising in the area is five. Three of these are in private practice.

During 1943, 327 births have been notified to this Authority; of these 119 took place at the Shipley and Bingley Maternity Home.

There is an arrangement whereby necessitous patients developing obstetrical difficulties can have a consultant's opinion either at home or by appointment with the consultant. The fees are paid by the Council. Mr. Rawson, who is also attached to the Maternity Home, acts in this capacity.

A scheme for assistance to necessitous expectant mothers

towards the cost of Dental Treatment is in operation in the area.

Investigation of maternal deaths is undertaken by the County Medical Officer. If hospital treatment is required for puerperal cases, they are admitted to Morton Banks Isolation Hospital.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

The Clinics shewed an attendance of 185 patients in 1943. Post natal cases are also encouraged to attend for examination. 13 of these patients attended.

REPORT
of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
and
PUBLIC CLEANSING OFFICER,
for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Bingley Urban District Council.**

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting a very brief report on the work of my Department for 1943.

The constant staff changes which have obtained since the outbreak of hostilities continued during the year when Mr. Fell, Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector, rejoined H.M. Forces. We were fortunate, however, in securing the services of Mr. C. Brown in his place. Mr. J. Heaton was appointed Foreman of the Cleansing Department in place of Mr. F. Turner.

Despite the announcement of the Government proposal to transfer the supervision of milk production to the State, the usual close attention was devoted to the Milk Supply. 522 samples were submitted to the Resazurin Test and advisory work carried out in respect of unsatisfactory samples. The standard of milk production in Bingley as regards buildings, methods and equipment will bear comparison with any other area in the country.

An exhaustive survey was conducted into the extent of Rodent Infestation at the request of the Ministry of Food and arrangements made for a scheme of systematic eradication in 1944.

The salvage yield declined somewhat during the year but the town made a splendid showing in the County Book Drive

when 104,789 books were collected—an average of over 5 per head.

While some 1,334 inspections were made of dwelling-houses it became increasingly difficult to secure compliance with notices to repair owing to shortage of labour in the Building Trade, and there will be heavy arrears of maintenance work when the war ends.

Routine inspections of factories, factory chimneys, bakehouses etc. were maintained as far as staff limitations permitted.

I continued to receive all possible support from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee. My staff worked hard and willingly during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) *Water.*

The Water Engineer reports that during the year, works of extension and improvement were carried out in connection with the Low Level Supply. He submitted 14 samples of water for bacteriological examination and 5 for chemical examination. All except 2 were reported as being satisfactory. My Department submitted 16 samples for bacteriological examination and 1 for chemical examination. The samples included both public and private supplies. Two were reported as being unsatisfactory and steps were taken to improve these supplies. In addition, 6 samples of public supplies were submitted to the County Laboratory for examination as to plumbo solvent tendencies. All were found to be satisfactory.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

There were no major alterations or extensions in connection with sewerage during the year.

2. *Rivers and Streams.*

Action to check pollution was taken wherever necessary.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation.*

During the year 13 waste water closets were abolished and 12 were converted into pedestal closets. The scheme, initiated in 1938, for the wholesale conversion of waste water closets was suspended at the request of the Ministry of Health on the outbreak of hostilities. There are 407 conversions still to do. 12 additional water closets were constructed during the year. The work of ashpit conversion too, has been largely suspended during the period of the war. The following tables gives the number of each type of closet and ash receptacle remaining at the end of the year.

**NO. AND TYPES OF CLOSET ACCOMMODATION ETC.
IN THE DISTRICT, DECEMBER 31st, 1943.**

Division	Water Closets	Trough Closets	Waste Water Closets	Pail Closets	Privy Midden Closets	Ash Places	Dustbins
Bingley	3436	30	344	22	1	491	2276
Cottingley	597	0	8	6	0	14	544
Harden	366	0	2	17	0	0	313
Crossflais	763	5	7	1	0	49	517
Mickle'wte	160	0	2	15	0	7	49
Culling'th	403	0	5	32	22	24	439
Gilstead	263	0	0	1	1	0	214
Eldwick	237	0	0	44	21	0	337
Wilsden	773	0	4	34	27	32	553
Totals ...	6998	35	372	172	72	617	5242

Drainage.

During the year 38 new drains were tested, generally by means of water test. 35 were approved and 3 disapproved. 82 old drains were examined and of these 17 were found to be in a defective condition.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

It became increasingly difficult to maintain an efficient public cleansing service during the year owing to the acute shortage of labour. The majority of the employees are aged or infirm. Their sickness rate is very high. A weekly salvage collection was maintained and a fortnightly collection of dustbins. The return of salvage materials shews an appreciable decline over the previous year. Waste paper dropped by nearly 100 tons and there was an equally serious decline in the non ferrous metals, textiles, glassware and cullet. Kitchen waste was the only material to show an increase. Some decline is, I suppose, inevitable but I cannot

help thinking that the drop in waste paper particularly, is due to a growing complacency on the part of the public who think that the war is practically won, and that such messy and unpleasant tasks as separating and saving salvage can be neglected. Actually the need for waste paper, textiles, bones and kitchen waste is as urgent as it was during the dark days of 1940 and 1941. The amount of paper and cardboard coming into our homes in the form of newspapers, magazines, containers and so on, was as large in 1943 as it was in 1942 and yet the amount returned as salvage shews a reduction of over 30%. I sincerely hope that Bingley residents will realise the great need for continuance of salvage efforts and produce as good a return as they did in the early years of the war period. The following are the details of the amounts of salvage material collected.

Waste Paper	216 tons	Other Non Ferrous	
Black Scrap	34 tons	Metals	$\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.
Baled Tins	59 tons	Bottles and Jars	
Aluminium	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts.		9 tons 10 cwts.
Copper	1 cwt.	Cullet	20 tons 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwts.
Brass	3 $\frac{3}{8}$ cwts.	Manure	12 tons
Zinc	2 cwts.	Kitchen Waste	
Lead	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts.		134 tons 16 cwts.
Textiles	9 tons 15 cwts.	Bones	5 tons 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwts.
		Miscellaneous	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwts.
		Sewage Sludge	52 tons

Value £2,258. Total Tonnage, 554 tons 0 $\frac{5}{8}$ cwts.

Your Inspector continued to act as Assistant Honorary District Adviser to the Salvage & Recovery Dept. (L.A.) of the Ministry of Supply, to a group of Local Authorities in the West Riding.

The staff in the Cleansing Department comprises 31 males and 1 female, a reduction of 2 over the previous year. The equipment comprises 4 mechanical refuse collection vehicles, two of which are provided with trailers, 2 horses and carts, one 500 gall. capacity gully emptier, and 7 Street Orderly trucks. It was impossible to maintain a weekly cleansing of subsidiary streets and roads as was the case in pre-war years, Daily cleansing of the main thoroughfares was kept up, and as frequent cleansing as possible of subsidiary streets was maintained. It is hoped to give some trials to mechanical sweeping in the near future.

Public Conveniences.

There are 47 public conveniences in the district and these

are cleansed by street orderlies, in most cases daily. Severe and wanton damage occurred to the Main Street conveniences and it became necessary to remove the locks and coin boxes which seem to attract the attention of amateur burglars.

Public Mortuary.

Nine bodies were received into the public mortuary during the year.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

A tabulated statement of the work carried out will be found on pages 11—12. This covers Offensive Trades, Factories, Canal Boats, etc.

(iv) *Shops and Offices.*

The inspection of shops and offices as regards sanitary accommodation was largely discontinued during the year. Four inspections were made.

(v) *Camping Sites.*

Camping is largely confined to 4 licensed sites and these are dealt with under the licensing provisions contained in the Public Health Act, 1936. Improvements in the drainage and sanitary conditions of these sites was carried out during the year.

(vi) *Smoke Abatement.*

During the year the restrictions imposed in connection with smoke abatement work were partially lifted and 24 observations were made. These shewed that excessive emission of black smoke occurred on 7 occasions and 4 cautions were issued. The present use of low grade fuel for industrial purposes renders smoke emission more likely. It is more difficult to prevent, and this state of affairs is likely to continue for some time.

Your Inspector continued to act as a representative of the Urban District Councils on the Executive Committee of the West Riding of Yorkshire Regional Smoke Abatement Committee. The Committee is now largely concerned with smoke abatement in relation to Post War Reconstruction.

(vii) *Eradication of Vermin.*

During the year 333 cases of Scabies were dealt with and a large amount of clothing and bedding was disinfected in the Council's steam disinfecter. This comprised 710 beds, 1,987 blankets, 939 pillows, 177 sheets, 39 eiderdowns, 10 bedspreads, 17 cushions, 115 bundles of clothing, 3 carpets, 3 rugs, 28 overalls. Regular disinfection of the blankets from Firewatching posts was carried out throughout the year.

Cases of infestation of houses by bed bugs shewed another decline, but we continued to make every effort to

reduce the spread of infestation. The furniture and belongings of prospective tenants of Council houses are carefully inspected before removal to a Council house. Disinfestation after bed bugs is usually carried out by the use of a heavy concentration of SO₂ coupled with spraying by an insecticide, Zaldecide, Lawvercide, or Vermicine.

HOUSING.

Housing work was again restricted to dealing with the abatement of overcrowding and the maintenance of property in a reasonable condition. 1,342 inspections were made in this connection. Owing to the shortage of labour in the building trade it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure compliance with notices.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*

The announcement of the Government's intention to take over the supervision of milk production from Local Authorities was received with a feeling of acute disappointment by your Authority. Milk production in this area has been raised to a particularly high standard, and buildings, equipment and methods are of a very satisfactory character.

The Bingley district is an intensive milk production area and there are about 2,200 dairy cows housed in 94 dairy farms. There are 44 producers of Accredited milk, these comprising most of the larger farmers, so that it is safe to say that the bulk of the supply comes from accredited herds.

358 cowshed inspections were made during the year and 522 samples of milk were obtained for examination by the Resazurin Test. Of these 391 or 74.9% were placed in Grade A, 82 or 15.7% were placed in Grade B, and 49 or 9.4% came out in Grade C. The farms from which any adverse reports were obtained were immediately visited and steps taken to find the cause of the trouble. In nearly every case this was due to breakdown or failure to use the sterilising plant, or defects connected with milking machines. In addition to this sampling, 93 further samples were obtained for examination by the Methylene Blue Test. Of these 88 were reported as being satisfactory. 4 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the Phosphatase Test and were found to be satisfactory.

Your Inspector continued to represent the West Riding Sanitary Inspectors on the County War Agricultural Executive Committee.

Distribution of milk was carried out by 68 purveyors. There is only one purveyor of pasteurised milk.

(b) *Meat and other Foods.*

175 visits were paid to slaughterhouses, food shops, farms etc. and 33 carcasses of meat and large quantities of other foodstuffs were inspected. The total weight of foods condemned during the year was 2,135 lbs.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS MADE.

		Re-
<i>Dwellinghouses.</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>inspections</i>
Inspected and recorded under Housing Act, 1936	82	112
Inspected under Public Health Acts ...	268	872
Inspected re verminous condition ...	29	18
Inspected re overcrowding cases ...	5	3
Houses disinfested	23	
Houses disinfected	69	
Schools disinfected	3	
Schools inspected	4	
Infectious cases visited	38	
Water Closets inspected	25	10
Privy Closets inspected	3	
Pail Closets inspected	8	1
Ash Receptacles inspected	129	45
Houses of proposed tenants of Council		
Houses inspected re vermin ...	21	
Council Houses inspected re vermin ...	23	
<i>Drainage.</i>		
Visits to work in progress	170	
New drains approved after test	35	
New drains disapproved after test ...	3	
Old drains tested	44	
Old drains found defective	17	
Old drains inspected	38	2
Plumbing work inspected	10	
<i>Slaughterhouses.</i>		
Visits for meat inspection	55	
Home killed carcasses inspected	33	
Food shops and preparation premises visited	116	4
<i>Cowsheds and Dairies.</i>		
Cowsheds inspected	357	1
Dairies inspected	160	
Interviews re repairs to sheds	1	
<i>Bakehouses.</i>		
Number inspected	8	56

<i>Offensive Trades.</i>					
Premises inspected	...	...	...	17	8
<i>Smoke Emission.</i>					
Chimneys observed	...	...	...	24	
<i>Factories.</i>					
Sanitary accommodation of factories					
inspected	...	...	...	5	5
Factories inspected	...	...	...	5	6
<i>Water Supply.</i>					
Streams inspected re pollution	...	...	...	3	
Domestic services examined	...	...	...	2	
Water samples obtained	...	...	...	19	
Visits to sources	...	...	...	—
<i>Miscellaneous Inspections.</i>					
Canal Boats	...	...	...	9	2
Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	7	1
Piggeries	...	...	...	1	
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	209	5
Salvage Depots	...	...	...	370	
Rat infested premises	...	...	...	56	51
Interviews with owners and contractors				27	
Visits with Surveyor	...	...	...	9	
Air Raid Shelters	...	...	...	21	8
Camping Sites	...	...	...	8	
Firewatching Posts	...	...	...	55	2
Outworkers premises	...	...	...	2	
Ministry of Food Buffer Depots	...			1	
Fireguards Posts disinfected	...	...	...	1	
Fireguards Posts disinfested	...	...	...	1	
Waste Materials (No. 2) Order	...	...	...	1	
Static Water Tanks	...	...	...	3	
Preliminary Notices issued	...	...	...	145	
Statutory Notices issued	...	...	...	34	

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

<i>Alleged Offence.</i>	<i>Result of Proceedings.</i>
Failure to comply with notice to remedy filthy house	... Fined £1.
Selling milk containing added water	... Fined £6 and costs.
Failure to comply with notice to remedy filthy house	... Fined £5 and given 28 days in which to carry out Order.

